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Cc: Foster, Althea[Foster.Althea@epa.gov]; Guria, Peter[Guria.Peter@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]
From: Williams, Laura
Sent: Wed 8/26/2015 10:42:08 PM
Subject: Reduced Sampling Frequency?

Dana,

Hopefully you've had a chance to catch your breath now that the trend graphs, with appropriate messaging, have been posted. When we last spoke about reduced sampling frequency for the GKM response, you indicated that part of the decision would be based upon seeing the data representation in the trend graphs. ICP Region 8 (Colorado) has now sampled on a daily basis since the August 5th event and ICPs Region 6 (New Mexico) and Region 9 (Shiprock/Navajo Nation) since August 7th. As indicated by the trend graphs, surface water samples have trended to the pre-pulse levels and, though not all data (post-August 13) have been posted, these values are expected to stay at the same levels even through the samples collected today.

Area Command would like to propose reducing the sampling frequency for both surface water and sediment to twice weekly for all three regions (6, 8, 9). This frequency will provide an appropriate transition to the long-term monitoring plan that is under review/development. Due to security concerns, we would also propose reducing the sample locations for Region 9 to five which can be safely accessed with tribal police escort (reduced from the original 11 locations). Regions 8 and 6 would continue sampling at the same sample locations without reduction.

We are ready to implement a reduced sampling frequency as soon as tomorrow if a decision can be made timely. We are available to discuss by teleconference if you should need additional discussion. Please let us know at your earliest opportunity. Thank you, lw